

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Prior Application: K. MABUCHI et al  
Serial No. 09/378,768  
Filed: August 23, 1999

Group Art Unit: 1741  
Examiner: E. Smith-Hicks  
For: A STEEL STRIP DESCALING APPARATUS  
AND A STEEL STRIP MANUFACTURING  
APPARATUS USING THE DESCALING  
APPARATUS

SAT  
#30  
1-11-02

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before the first line of the specification please insert the sentence --*See Amend A* This is a divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 09/378,768 filed August 23, 1999.--.

Page 1, first full paragraph (lines 3 and 4), replace the paragraph as follows:

*B'* The present invention relates to a steel strip descaling apparatus and a steel strip manufacturing apparatus using the descaling apparatus.